

Fort Buchanan Fire Department
Summertime Safety Tips for BBQ, Fireworks, and Gasoline

Fire / Ambulance Emergency Reporting Phone: (787) 707-5911 / DSN 740-5911

It's Summer Time! Ready for the BBQ?



Every year Americans look forward to summer vacations, camping, family reunions, picnics, and the Fourth of July. Summertime, however, also brings fires and injuries due to fireworks and outdoor grills. Annually more than 8,000 Americans are injured by fireworks and grill fires. More than half these injuries occur during the first week of July.

Fireworks and barbecues can be very dangerous, even deadly, if not used properly. Before cooking out or lighting fireworks, review fire safety precautions with your family.

The National Fire Data Center estimates yearly outside cooking grills cause more than 6,000 fires, over 5 fatalities, more than 170 injuries, and \$35 million in property loss. Gas grills alone cause over 2,700 fires, 80 injuries, and \$11 million dollars damage. Most of the gas grill fires and explosions were caused by gas leaks, blocked tubes, and overfilled propane tanks.

In addition to outdoor cooking, improper use of fireworks has caused more than 6,000 fires and more than \$8 million in damage. Summertime should be a time for fun and making happy memories. Knowing a few fire safety tips and following instructions will help everyone have a safe summer.

Families also enjoy camping in the summer. It is important to follow the park's rules for the use and extinguishing of campfires.

BBQ Safety Tips:

- Keep your barbecue clean and free of grease buildup. If accumulated, deposits catch fire; they can be difficult to put out without an extinguisher.
- Clean the venturi tubes on gas barbecues regularly. Insects love to build nests in these tubes, causing blockages and making the barbecue hard to start, or worse, forcing the gas to find somewhere else to go. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning.
- Never start a gas barbecue with the lid closed. The propane or natural gas may accumulate inside, and when ignited, could blow the lid off rather dramatically. In addition, don't lean over the top of a barbecue as you're lighting it, especially if you're fond of your eyebrows.
- Don't wear loose clothing that might catch fire if the flames suddenly flare up. If

<p>your clothes do catch fire, STOP, DROP, and ROLL. This will smother the flames before they can cause serious injury</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never use any accelerant (flammable liquid) other than barbecue starter fluid to start a charcoal barbecue. Gasoline, paint thinner and other petroleum products are NOT designed to start barbecues. They burn explosively, and release toxins that may taint your food.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When using starter fluid, place the container well away from the barbecue before attempting to light it. Be sure you haven't spilled any on your clothes, the grass, or deck.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although decks are popular places to barbecue, be aware that leaves, dry grass, and other combustible materials collect under them. If a smoldering match is dropped between the boards, it may ignite these materials and the deck. If your deck is close to, or attached to your home, this could present a very serious fire hazard.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never store liquid or pressurized fuels inside your home. Propane, gasoline, and any other flammable liquids and gases should be stored in regulation containers away from potential sources of flame such as furnaces, water heaters, and fireplace.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire fighters recommend having a multi-purpose fire extinguisher available for minor household fires. An extinguisher rated 2A-10BC is sufficient for any home. Do not attempt to extinguish a fire without calling the fire department first, and never let a fire get between you and a direct route to safety. If in doubt, do not attempt to fight the fire yourself. Make sure you and your family are safe at all times.
<p>Plan for a safe and enjoyable barbecue season. If you have any questions about barbecues or other fire safety topics, please contact Fire & Emergency Services Business Phones: (787) 707-3410 or (787) 707-3520.</p>

Fireworks Safety:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The best way to enjoy fireworks is to visit public fireworks displays put on by professionals who know how to safely handle fireworks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · If you plan to use fireworks, make sure they are legal in your area. Never light fireworks indoors or near dry grass.

· Always have a bucket of water and/or a fire extinguisher nearby. Know how to operate the fire extinguisher properly.

· Do not wear loose clothing while using fireworks.

· Stand several feet away from lit fireworks. If a device does not go off, do not stand over it to investigate it. Put it out with water and dispose of it.

· Always read the directions and warning labels on fireworks. If a device is not marked with the contents, directions and a warning label, do not light it.

· Supervise children around fireworks at all times.

Campfire Safety:

· Build campfires where they will not spread, away from dry grass and leaves.

· Keep campfires small, and don't let them get out of hand.

· Keep plenty of water and a shovel around to douse the fire when you're done. Stir it and douse it again with water.

· Never leave campfires unattended.



Fire Department - Gasoline Safety

Fire / Ambulance Emergency Reporting Phone: (787) 707-5911 / DSN 740-5911

IF YOU MUST HAVE GASOLINE AROUND THE HOUSE:

Always store gasoline in approved safety containers — containers can be expensive, but it is cheap "fire insurance."

Always have a fire extinguisher marked for "B" type fires (gasoline and other flammable liquids). Be sure you know how to use it!

Always store the containers in the garage or shed rather than the house.

Never carry gasoline in the trunk of your car.

Always keep the minimum amount of gas required.

Always store the container in a cool and well-ventilated area. Keep it away from any source of heat or sparks such as a water heater, electric motor, or car engine.

Always keep gasoline away from children.
Never siphon gasoline by sucking from a hose; if swallowed, gasoline can be fatal.
Never use gasoline as a cleaner, charcoal starter, or solvent.
IF YOU OR YOUR CHILD SHOULD EVER SWALLOW GASOLINE, THEN:
Move the child away from the gasoline source and secure the gasoline.
If you live off-post, call your doctor or the Poison Control Center, San Juan Metro Area (787) 726-5660 immediately, or call 9-1-1. (Poison Control Center Island Wide 1-800-222-1222)
Never induce vomiting; the same is true of kerosene, lighter fluid, and fuel oil.
For gasoline on clothing - remove the clothing and dispose of carefully.
For gasoline on skin - use lots of warm soapy water to reduce the risk of chemical burns.
IF YOU DO HAVE A GASOLINE FIRE AND DON'T HAVE A "B" TYPE FIRE EXTINGUISHER
Get everyone away from the fire.
Never use water to put out a gasoline fire.
Contact Fire & Emergency Services Immediately: (787) 707-5911 Stay calm.